



FAQS

What does the program emphasize? Play-based nature learning with a strong focus on social-emotional skills. We use evidence-based literacy and math curriculum.

Do you focus on social justice? We believe children learn stereotypes and prejudices at this age, so we use an anti-bias anti-racist lens for all of our curriculum.

Where are you located? In a renovated barn on a working farm in Brookline, Massachusetts.

What animals are in your barn? One miniature horse, a goat, a donkey, and chickens

What animals do you see on the farm? Turkeys, turtles, rabbits, salamanders, mice, red-tailed hawks, frogs, geese, snakes, praying mantis, bees, deer, foxes, herons, and two long-horned highland steers.

How much time do you spend outdoors? Unless the weather is particularly poor, we are outside all day except for 45 minutes.

What early education best practices do you follow? We are a blended program of Reggio Emilia, Montessori, and socio-dramatic play, which is incorporated into our extensive use of the outdoors.

What are your hours?

Early drop off 10 spots: 7:30 am - 8:15 am

Morning Program (5 days): 8:15 am - 12:00 pm

Sandwich Club Program (optional) 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (M/T/Th/F) **No Wednesdays**

Do you offer scholarships? Yes - 20% receive some tuition assistance

Are parents involved? Yes, encouraged but not required. Parents spend time with their child's class. Parent's traditions and celebrations are encouraged to be shared. All parents volunteer on our Scholarship Fair Day in May.

Toilet training

We highly recommend that all children be toilet trained at the start of school. Our program is based on outdoor learning, discovery, and exploration, and these adventures take place all over the farm. It is difficult for a child who is not toilet trained to fully embrace and enjoy this kind of curriculum. Although we expect occasional accidents, children should come to school in underwear, NOT pull-ups or diapers. We keep extra clothes at school for necessary changes.

Where do Apple Orchard students live? Boston, Brighton, Brookline, Cambridge, Chestnut Hill, Dedham, Dorchester, Dover, Hingham, Jamaica Plain, Milton, Natick, Needham, Newton, Roslindale, Sherborn, Waban, Wellesley, West Newton, West Roxbury.